

**Question for written answer E-004205/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Autism: trends, challenges and policy questions in the EU

Across the world, the number of autism diagnoses are rising significantly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the US, diagnoses of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) have increased from around 1 in 150 children in 2000 to 1 in 36 in 2020.

Similar trends have been reported in the EU: although rates vary by country and methodology, incidence is estimated at around 0.5 % according to meta-analyses, with significant variations depending on health systems and diagnostic tools.

In Greece, recent analyses of administrative data show rates close to 0.94 % in children aged 2 to 17 (2021) and up to 1.15 % in an older sample. These values are above the European average.

Possible factors need to be investigated. As regards the use of paracetamol in pregnancy, the data remains inconclusive: large studies (e.g. JAMA 2024) have not been able to demonstrate a link with autism, while the European Medicines Agency (2025) recommends continued use at the lowest effective dose. At the same time, several systematic reviews and observational studies continue to identify potential correlations with an increased risk of neurodevelopmental disorders, which calls for caution.

Can the Commission say:

Does it intend to draw up targeted prevention and awareness-raising measures to reduce the incidence of autism in the EU?

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